

BIRD NOTES.

We have 26 birds on the list so far, which is just the same number as at this time last year. But the birds that have been seen are different; meadow pipits have already been seen on Wansfell Terrace, and a wheatear was seen at half-term. In spite of the very cold weather the great tit's spring note was heard as early as January 16th, and a song-thrush we were watching on February 16th attempted to sing, but he seemed to find it a rather difficult matter. The rooks are not yet building, but they are evidently settling their mates. Bullfinches have several times been seen at the bottom of the drive, and during the snow there were two pairs coming regularly for crumbs on the window-sills at Slaithwaite Rayne.

Whilst Rydal Lake was frozen, the birds seemed to have disappeared altogether with the exception of one pair of moorhens, which pecked about on the river banks at the south end, and which seemed to think the water was too cold to stay on for long. But just before the frost came we saw large flocks of pochard and some golden-eye there; it was not cold then, and we wondered why there were so many on the lake when only severe weather drives them off Loughrigg Tarn. One day we saw at least 50 pochard swimming about and diving right under in flocks of about 15 or 16.

The people in the village say that goldfinches are not rare here, and some people can even point to nesting places. We wonder if any ex-students ever saw them.

NOTES ON CRITICISM LESSONS.

With reference to a History lesson to Class Ib, Miss Mason spoke strongly on the beneficial result of "finding the children," getting them thoroughly interested first by recalling last lesson, and by some mention of the principal persons

or events in the lesson of the day. Then after the reading and narration, it is often well to have some further talk in which the children can have their questions answered, and any doubts cleared away.

After a Geography lesson Miss Mason said that the previous knowledge of the children should be kept up by map questions. She also spoke of the disadvantage of doing the children's work by answering questions for them, and of the necessity of gaining their attention at the beginning of a lesson.

If children can't narrate they should be helped by suitable questions.

DR. JOHNSTON'S TESTIMONIAL.

Students will be glad to hear that in answer to the appeal for contributions towards a Presentation to Dr. Johnston, I received in all £7 15s. from sixty of the students and members of the staff. Mr. Yates very generously and heartily agreed to the suggestion that he should paint the Doctor's portrait in oils, and the last I heard, on receipt of the money, was that the painting was progressing satisfactorily, and that both Mr. Yates and the Doctor thoroughly enjoyed the sittings. I hope that the portrait will be on view during the coming Conference at Ambleside, as many students would then be able to view it. I should like to add that our thanks are due to Miss Williams who kindly met all expenses in connection with printing and postage.

L. G.

There are still nearly thirty-five students who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year. I should be so glad to receive them without having to send round fresh notices.

LILIAN GRAY.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

These will be held as before on the ^{first} last Saturday in every month, at the York Rooms, Baker Street.

Only four students were present at the January meeting.

An emergency meeting was held at the A. & N. Stores, to discuss Conference arrangements; there were present:—

Miss Bernau,
Miss Laurence,
Miss Pennethorne,
Miss Owen,

but little could be done as so few were gathered together.

On March 2nd, at the York Rooms, the following students were present:—

Miss Rankin.	Miss M. Conder.
Miss W. Kitching.	Miss L. Faunce.
Miss M. Evans.	Miss E. R. Tetley,
Miss F. Judd.	Miss M. Dixon.
Miss El. Smith.	Miss Gray.

and two others.

Will all students attending kindly give their names to the Treasurer or any other Committee member present, that we may know whom we have the pleasure of meeting on these occasions.

A suggestion was made that each student who thought that she could be present at any meeting should send a post card to Miss L. Gray, 5, Cedar Gardens, Richmond, 10 days before, that when notices are sent round, a list of those who intended to be present might be added, as this might increase the attendance.

There will be no meeting in April, as that would clash with the Conference, but for May this plan might be tried.

PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to remind all ex-students of the House of Education that they are life members of the P.N.E.U., and have the right of attending all Lectures free of any additional charge. I would suggest that immediately they enter a post they should communicate with the Secretary of the nearest Branch, if there be one, and ask to be supplied with all particulars of Lectures, &c.

In some cases, where they may have any time at their disposal for such work, I am sure the local Secretaries would welcome their addition to the Committee.

May I at the same time beg of students to purchase all their school books through the Office. They will thus obtain them with the smallest possible delay, and the slight profit made on them is a welcome addition to our income.

Yours sincerely,

H. FRANKLIN,

Hon. Organizing Sec.

NOTICE.

L'Umile Pianta will be issued again after the Conference, at the beginning of June; all contributions to reach the Editor by *May 30th*, addressed to—

Holmfield,

Sparrow Green,

Wadhurst,

Nr. Tunbridge Wells.